

## RHODE ISLAND LONG-TERM-CARE BRIEFS

A Newsletter of the RI Long-Term-Care Coordinating Council

Lt. Gov. Charles J. Fogarty, Chairman

Maureen Maigret, Executive Director

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### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**2003 LEGISLATURE PASSES HISTORIC NURSING HOME PAYMENT REFORM, CUTS IN SENIOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS RESTORED, PILOT PROGRAM FOR NURSING HOME CARE FOR ELDER IMMIGRANTS ENACTED, RX DRUG ASSISTANCE EXPANDED**

Major reforms in the way the state pays for Medicaid-funded nursing home care highlighted 2003 long-term-care-related legislative action. Sponsored by Senator Stephen D. Alves and Representative Steven M. Costantino, the changes were included as Article 41 of the 2004 budget bill (H6174Aamended). The LTCCC advocated for these reforms for several years and they were a top priority of the Council's 2003 Work Plan.

[<full story>](#)



### LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP 2003

A listing of 2003 Council-recommended legislation passed by the legislature.

[<full story>](#)

### COUNCIL WORKING TO ADDRESS NURSING AND DENTAL CARE CRISIS

Access to adequate dental care has been a long-standing problem for many nursing home residents. The problems grew worse, however, at the end of last year when one of the two dental care providers serving the state's nursing homes ended services. Working with Council member Senator Elizabeth Roberts, Chairwoman of the Senate Legislative Commission on Oral Health, a Council Subcommittee that includes representatives of the state's dental community has been studying the issue and identifying potential solutions including creation of a pilot mobile dental health program.

[<full story>](#)

### RHODE ISLAND

### BUDGET ARTICLE 27 TO STUDY

## LONG-TERM-CARE SPENDING: FY2002 HIGHLIGHTS

The Council published the sixth edition of *Rhode Island Long Care Spending: Where Do the \$\$\$ Go?* in February. The report showed total state spending for long-term care in FY2002 was \$414,198,745 (state and federal dollars), a 5% increase (\$22,216,584) over FY2001. Of the total spent, 51% were federal funds and 49% state.

[<full story>](#)



## FUNDING INDEX FOR COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

As part of the FY2004 Budget (H6174Aamended), the legislature created a new eleven-member Joint Legislative Study Commission to undertake analyses and make recommendations for legislative or administrative action to implement an annual funding index to address long-term funding stability of the private community-based providers serving the human service needs of the state. The Commission includes two community-based providers to be appointed by the Speaker.

## HEALTH CARE QUALITY PERFORMANCE REPORTING FUNDS RESTORED

The Governor's proposed budget for FY2004 reduced funding for the state's health care quality reporting program by \$200,000 seriously impacting the ability of HEALTH to continue this nationally-recognized program. The program works in two important long-term care areas: nursing homes and home care.

[<full story>](#)

## SEN. ALVES AND REP. COSTANTINO LEAD EFFORT TO REFORM NURSING HOME PAYMENTS

Rhode Island's nursing homes scored a huge victory with the passage of this year's budget. Led by Representative Steven M. Costantino, Deputy Chairman of the House Finance Committee, and Senator Stephen D. Alves, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, changes in nursing home payment methods, the Principles of Reimbursement, were incorporated into Article 41 of the Budget that passed both houses.

[<full story>](#)

## COUNCIL TARGETS FALL PREVENTION FOR ACTION

In its 2003 Work Plan, the LTCCC proposed to "identify a research-based disability prevention project that could be implemented through a statewide collaborative of health/aging service providers and design a plan to create or participate in such a collaborative." After reviewing the high degree of disability caused by falls and their heavy cost to the health care system, fall prevention was selected for the project. The Council will team up with several organizations to develop a year-long campaign targeted on fall prevention for elders living in home and community settings to start with a conference in the fall of 2003.

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